ral areas. Preference is given in employment to landless labourers. In addition, the objective of Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is also to provided at least for one member of each of the rural landless labour households up to 100 days of employment in a year. At present, with the present level of investment only around 600 million mandays of employment is generated in a year under both these programmes. To provide 100 days of employment in a year for one member each of the landless households, about 1500 million mandays should be generated in a year. This would require about 2.5 times the present level of investment under both these programmes. Due to paucity of resources it has not been possible to achieve the above objective so far.

(c) and (d) National Rural Employment Programme/Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme works are normally undertaken departmentally under the supervision of panchayats/blocks of the line department concerned. Though the Guidelines strictly prohibit the employment of contractors and other middlemen, the first round of concurrent evaluation of National Rural Employment Programme has shown that the contractors and middlemen are being employed in about 1.3 per cent cases. Complaints of violation of this provision of the Guidelines have also been brought to the notice of the Government of India now and then. These complaints are usually referred to the concerned State Governments who are responsible for implementation of these programmes for conducting necessary inquiry and taking necessary and suitable corrective actions. State Governments are asked to improve their monitoring arrangements through regular inspection of works by staff at all levels to bring about better compliance with the existing instructions.

Agricultural and cooperative projects in collaboration with USA

*197. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Agricultural and Cooperative Research Projects are under implementation in the country in collaboration with United States;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and the date since when those projects have been taken up;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to complete those projects by the end of the Seventh Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cooperation between India and U.S.A. in the field of Agricultural Research is going on at present through the following three channels:

—Science and Technology Initiative

— U.S. held rupee projects (PL-480 Projects)

— INDO-USAID Projects Grant agreement.

(i) Under the Indo-US Science and Technology Initiative Programme, five sub-projects have been developed in the major areas of Biological Nitrogen Fixation and Nitrogen Fertiliser Efficiency. The list of projects and their dates of start are given in the encolsed statements-I (*See* below).

(ii) Under the PL-480 Programme, funds are made available through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for agricultural research projects. There are at present 76 PL-480 projects in progress at various ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities and other institutions in India. The list of projects and their dates of start are given in the Statement-II [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 44].

(iii) Under the overall Indo-US subcommission and Indo-UAID Agricultural Research Projects agreement, Six sub-projects are in operation as per details given in the enclosed Statement-III (*See* below).

(c) These projects are not co-terminus with VII Plan.

(d) The progress of the projects is monitored regularly through Technical Advisory Committee and Project Approval and Monitoring Committee.

Statement-I

List of on-going subprojects under Indo-US Science & Technology Initiative (STI) Programme

S. No.	Name of the subproject	Date of start	Date of termination
1.	Nitrogen Fertiliser Efficiency	July, 1984	July, 1989
2.	Biological Nitrogen Fixation by Blue Green Algae and Azolla	July, 1984	July, 1989
3.	Rhizobium Strain Improvement, maintenance of Rhizobium germplasm and improvement of carrier and inoculation techniques	July, 1984	July, 1989
4.	Synergistic effects of VA Mycorrhiza (VAM) with rhizobia to improve nodulation and nitrogen fixation of legumes	July, 1984	July, 1989
5.	Molecular Biology of Symbiotic and Free Living Nitrogen Fixation	July, 1984	July, 1989

Statement-III

List of on-going subprojects under the Indo-US Agricultural Research Project

S.No.	Name of the subproject	Date of start	Date of termination
1.	Soybean Processing & Utilisation	May, 1984	March, 1990
2.	Post Harvest Technology of Fruits and Vegetables	October, 1984	March, 1990
3.	Faculty Training in Forestry	April, 1986	April, 1991
4.	Intracellular Blood Protista with particular reference to Immuno Prophylaxis and control	November, 1986	November, 1991
5.	Embryo Transfer Technology including disease transmissibility Studies	June, 1987	June, 1992
6.	Conversion of Biodegradable Wastes for Animal Feeds	June, 1987	June, 1992